

The

PARAUFOLOGIST

VOLUME ONE

NUMBER THREE

illustrations in this issue by Glen Brock

- *in the current issue* -

AS SERIOUS AS LIFE ITSELF

-- the editor discusses the implications of unusual phenomena research - and tells us that even easily solved UFO cases are of value. All with a straight face, too. If you can believe that, read on.

THE SAUCER LECTURER

-- if you've attended a lot of UFO lectures, and are very bright, you've probably suspected this all along, but now we spell it out in print.

SPECIALTY PUBLISHING

-- here your editor waxes poetic - or attempts to - and if you listen very closely, you might learn a great deal about these little missionary tracts. Little missionary tracts like the paraufologist?

Book Review of TRUE EXPERIENCES WITH GHOSTS

-- if things aren't as simple as they used to be, why should ghost stories be an exception?

THE UFO FIELD IN THE UNITED STATES

AN EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

-- the editor takes a look at the present and the past, finds some new lights shining in ufology -- maybe. Pretending that he knows what he is talking about, he proceeds to give advice for the future.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

-- a great, big photo of a strange looking light. Better read the caption, though, before you go running around showing it to your friends.



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A S S E R I O U S A S L I F E I T S E L F

To be suspicious, to be doubtful, to laugh, in a sense, at it all may be among the admirable points of character one should seek in an unusual phenomena investigator. UFOs, ESP and other areas of unusual phenomena research might be well served, at this stage of the game, by researchers having such qualities.

But this should not be all there is to it. As of right now, I don't know where all of this will lead, but I can say this much: There is enough evidence in favor of some kind of objective paranormal factor to justify a fair amount of serious and thoughtful attention to such areas of research. I'll grant that in the end we may have little to show for our efforts, but this is not necessarily going to be the case. Even if in the end we decide that all unusual phenomena can be traced back to conventional causes, are there implications in terms of our understanding of the nature of reality and of man and his place in the universe? If, for example, the Fatima, Portugal incident is to be considered as a UFO event, it can also be considered in terms of a religious miracle. Proof of the UFO aspect bears upon the religious aspect, and proof of the religious aspect would bear upon the UFO question. And the religious aspect, with implications stretching back into earlier history, could effect far more than questions about interplanetary visitations.

Recent material by Dr. James McDonald published in Flying Saucer Review may serve to show that there exist on record UFO cases which are both unexplained and impressively documented. On the other hand, there are cases with readily available conventional explanations. But there might be much to learn from these cases as well.

On the night of January 20, 1971 an unknown phenomena was seen in the sky around 7:00 PM in the Southeastern United States. A number of telephone calls came into our office in Atlanta. Similar events took place on January 26th and February 1st. All are apparently explainable in terms of rockets fired from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. We were personally able to see the phenomenon on one of these dates, and a photograph tentatively identified as of the phenomena taken by the present writer is published in this issue.

It may not have been a "real UFO wave", but it demonstrated what we might expect, fear and hope for under such circumstances. If the next time it is "for real" we might owe a debt of gratitude to this "dry run". Live and learn.

Wherever the road of unusual phenomena research leads, the end may reveal to us information of enormous value. And we might learn quite a bit along the way as well.

THE SAUCER LECTURER

By Allen H. Greenfield

Pretending to place my notes back on the speaker's table, I was able to steal a look out at the audience. About 50 or 60 persons were already there; the scheduled time for the lecture was 8 PM and it was only about 7:50 now.

Actually, I didn't really expect much more than this -- the saucer business, thank Rouwb, isn't what it once was. In any case, the hall we had rented had a huge seating capacity, so that even a rather large turn-out would appear small. This was to make those who did attend feel uncomfortable and part of a lost cause. It was a small part of the Plan.

I could see at the center of the room, on the right side from where I stood, Weloch was just taking his seat. He had come this time dressed as a hippie, and he looked the part very well indeed.

Of course, we wouldn't want our people to develop too much of a hippie image, because that might shift the straights right back into the saucer movement, and we wanted anything but that. But Weloch had a very small part tonight -- all he had to do was to stand up at the right moment and yell "Fake!" after Raong made his pitch.

But where the hell was Raong? Momentarily, I dropped my paper-sorting ruse, and overtly looked wildly around the room. It was a relief when I realized abruptly that this time he had even fooled me, if only for a moment. There he was, dressed in his 'scientific suit' as we called it. But this time, he had added a small, neatly-trimmed beard, which had come as a surprise to me. One of his own little ideas.

Checking my watch, I could see that it was exactly 8. I gave Reen the signal to begin and he walked over to the speaker's table and began his bit with the p.a. As usual, we had fixed it in such a way so that it would work badly all evening. "One," he began, "testing one - two - three. Test. Testing...." As he went through this I made a last minute check of the slide projector. Perfect.

Four slides were in upside down, and the bulb was all set to burn out right in the middle of the slide lecture. Everything was in order, I was sure, and Reen, having finished his messing with the mike, began the program.

"Good evening," he offered. His voice was accompanied by an irritating squeal from the public address system, just as we had hoped. "Welcome to the Atlantic Coast Flying Object Convention. We are so glad to see so many of you flying saucer fans here today, and we hope that you will enjoy our programme."

"Now, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our special guest lecturer, an expert on the flying saucer subject who also has lectured on such important topics as e.s.p. and astrology, Mr. Fieldson H. Henry!"

Clap, clap, clap. The unimpressive sound of applause from the small crowd

was absolute music to my ears. I walked slowly to the table, making sure to trip over the mike cable slightly, pushed my glasses slightly off to the side to enhance the crackpot image I was to project, and began.

I started out conservatively enough, discussing the Arnold incident, the Washington sightings of 1952, the Gill case, Socorro, Michigan, etc. Then I touched on the contactees, keeping it all objective and impersonal. I began the slide lecture, and showed due distress when the projector bulb blew out. Reen went through the motions of searching the hall for an extra bulb, though of course we didn't have one.

(One night last year, while doing this bit, some damned idiot in the audience actually had a bulb with him. We had to make do with the inverted slides and the fake-looking photographs projected to salvage the slide part of the programme.)

Anyway, after about 15 minutes of this, during which the audience began to fidget pleasingly around in their very uncomfortable chairs, I announced that we would take a short break and then resume the lecture.

Now, the break, you see, is designed to show us how well we are doing on a given evening. If we are doing quite well, about half the people in the audience will not be back. On a poor evening, only one or two leave. One time we were lucky enough to find an unheated hall in the dead of winter, which also had the additional asset of no restrooms. Only about five persons stayed that time, all, presumably, with heavy coats and fantastic control of bodily functions. And this was back in 1967, when saucer lecturers, even bad ones, were really packing them in. It was some meeting.

After the break this time, I noted we had lost 10 or 15. O.K., but hardly something to rave about. I gave Reen a signal, and he changed the setting on the p.a. so that it would squeal at a slightly more irritating level. I then went on.

"I regret that the slide showing will not be able to go on, but as announced in the newspapers, we are going to have a question-and-answer session. If you have, ah, a question for us?"

Several hands. I picked a fat man in an oversized trench coat. He asked: "Where do the U.F.O.s come from?"

I hedged, still playing it conservative. Then, after a few more such, I recognized Raong. He stood there, tall and impressive, and in that deep tone of voice of his asked, "Isn't it true that you yourself claim contact with the aliens?"

My face, as always, turned an embarrassed red. I went through my evasion act, then told the contact story, filled with contradictions even the tennis shoe crowd could notice. On cue, Weloch jumped up, yelled "Fake!" and stalked out of the hall. A couple of people followed him. The rest counted dots on the ceiling, looked at their watches, etc. until the end of the lecture.

Back at the ship, flying on to our next lecture date, Raong asked, for the thousandth time, "Why? Why do they buy such a simple ruse?"

"Perhaps," I said, "because they need to believe it is a fake. If they didn't, well, remember the Orwell broadcast." Off we flew, looking for all the world like a flying saucer, or was it just ball lightning?



This photograph is tentatively identified as a shot of an unusual Light Manifestation taken by Allen H. Greenfield using a camera with telephoto lens and very high speed film. Taken in Atlanta, Georgia about 7:00 P.M. local time, January 20, 1971. Phenomena is identified as the result of a Rocket test launched from Elgin Air Force Base, Florida.

I.

Eggplants are subversive -
I can feel it in my bones.
Eggplants are subversive -
A communist plot and an
Invasion from Jupiter.

I KNOW -
I read all the latest books
On eggplants.
Yes, indeed.
I've got the goods
On the eggplants.

II.

I think I'll publish a newsletter
About the eggplants
And their subversive plot.
I'll mail it to my friends -
And send it to the newspapers.
I must tell the whole world the facts
About the eggplants.

III.

What do you tell me?
Eggplants are only eggplants?
What will become of me?
What will become of the
International Eggplant Movement?

IV.

Carrots are subversive -
And I have seen the proof.
Nobody can deny it -
The evidence is clear.
We must tell the world!
The world must be told!

book review

TRUE EXPERIENCES WITH GHOSTS by Martin Ebon (Editor) - Signet

The contributions in this volume come from a number of authors, and cover many years in time and various parts of the world. Although Mr. Ebon does not claim in his introduction -- which includes interesting cases in addition to those covered elsewhere in the book -- that he has an answer for these cases, a thoughtful reading by one with a knowledge of certain theoretical trends might yield ~~an~~interesting aspects which would not be apparent to the general reader.

In a section by Maurice Quinton we find an account of a boyhood experience involving Quinton himself, Quinton's cousin Michael, and a couple of ghosts. The event took place in Ireland, 1920. The specific location was Derrymore, an old estate which had been associated with Quinton's family since approximately 1510.

The experience runs something like this: The two boys were home alone, except for Quinton's dog Rory. The dog became unaccountably disturbed. An organ started playing (& an organ was present) and a man in out-of-date dress appeared. Quinton recognized the "ghost" as that of one Henry Quinton, who had been found dead many years before.

The music suddenly stopped, and the shade of Henry Quinton or whatever-it-was, now appeared as perhaps the "real" Henry Quinton had at the time of his death.

From the other side of the room another spectre appeared -- this time in the form of a woman -- walked to the figure at the organ, seemed to recognize that "Henry Quinton" was dead, walked back across the room and out. Upon looking back, Maurice could no longer see the ghost of Henry, either.

Now as it turns out, the event here described is a not-so-instant replay of an event known to Mr. Quinton at the time of his experience. There is an additional factor not yet mentioned here, that being that the "female spirit" of the encounter also died on that same day, possibly through suicide, or by accidentally falling from a window. The morning after the experience of Maurice and Michael, the window from which she had plunged , which was in a room not in use and locked up, was found to be open.

What do we have here? First, we have a multiple-witness case. One person, alone and young and knowing of such an event, might well daydream or imagine such an experience. Two would perhaps be considerably less likely. Further, we have an animal reaction case. A dog becomes disturbed. Later, he calms down during the experience, as does his master -- which in and of itself is interesting. We have here an event which seems to be either a replay (without benefit of videotape) or a reenactment, rather than original behavior on the part of the phenomena. But we also have the "physical evidence" of the open window to contend with.

Perhaps the event involves some kind of time factor; the boys and the dog are in the right place, but the wrong time. They are therefore seeing the actual original event as it took place at that location but in another time period. Great theory -- but what about the window?

A psychological theory might also be built, but it is compromised by the number of witnesses and that damned window again.

How about parapsychology? Well, the boys may well have been in the

right setting for one of them to have imagined the event and 'projected' it into the mind of the other boy and the dog. The window? Well, it could again involve a parapsychological factor, this time telekinesis.

Another theory involves a "reality meshing" effect. Time and space factors might not be nearly as constant as they seem on the surface. In one reality it is the year 1920 and the place called Derrymore in Ireland. In a second state of reality - meshing with the first for a moment - it is the same location but another time; the time of the double death. Who can say what else there is? A third reality where no meshing took place between the first two? Another where there is no Derrymore? No Ireland? No world as we know it at all?

That there are interesting reports of "ghosts" True Experiences With Ghosts will show the reader. What these accounts actually represent is another matter.

THE UFO FIELD IN THE UNITED STATES

An Evaluation of the Current Situation

Project Bluebook is dead, the Condon results are in, and have been in for some time. Will private ufology in the United States go in the same direction? Will it, after many years, after the history of the 1950s and 1960s, finally give up and go out of business? Or will it continue?

If it does continue, where will it go? More of the same? Or something new?

There are some activities of late which might be recorded as hopeful signs of at least a continued ufology structure. Later in this article we shall offer some points that, if followed, might give ufology a stronger framework to work in. But first, let's look at these hopeful signals.

Edited by Mrs. Norma E. Short, Skylook, in the issue dated January, 1971 includes discussion of the Midwest UFO Network, the Midwest UFO Conference, and the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis. Skylook itself may constitute a positive sign. Likewise UFO Potpourri, The Kansas Newsletter, Sauceritis Review.

Skylook also mentions a lecture at Lindenwood College by John Schuessler.

Elsewhere, nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman stated in a letter dated February 24, 1971:

".... In recent months I have heard many formerly interested people say-- interest in UFOs is dead,-- nothing is happening in the UFO world-- it is a lost cause---- ad nauseum. My own experiences of the last few years and even of the past month would indicate that these notions of doom and gloom are incorrect.

" Specifically-- almost all of my college lectures of the past year have been attended by overflow enthusiastic audiences. My last seven talks all were to SRO crowds...."

Whether all of this is end-of-the-road last-ditch action before the final close-down of American UFology, I don't know. But it is there. It does exist. Anyone who feels ufology has had it should consider that fact. In addition to these new elements, some of "traditional" ufology remains with us.

I wasn't involved in the ufology of the 1950's, but I did have the fortune - good or bad - of riding with the ufology of the 1960's on the road up to the peak of '66-'67 and down through the conclusions of the Condon Committee and the closing of Project Bluebook. It is still quite possible that the efforts of ufologists during that decade will ultimately yield a positive harvest, but any new ufological wave might well give thought to avoiding the mistakes of the past. For the ufology of the 1960's, whatever else one can say of it - did not succeed in bringing about a high priority for scientific investigation of the ufo subject, nor does it seem to have been able to keep public attention at a sustained high level. Nor did it, in any clear way, seem to solve the ufo mystery itself.

(1) In the future ufology should devote substantial efforts to changing the status of ufology from a part-time hobby into a full-time profession. One can discuss at length all of the accomplishments of non-professional students of various subjects, etc, but the fact remains: UFology has, from the early days, been a non-professional field. What has it accomplished?

This does not mean that I am calling on non-professionals to end their association with the field. To the contrary, a non-professional ufology is better than no ufology at all. In addition, amateurs might play a very important role in a professional ufological world. But they should recognize that the present structure has questionable potential for attacking this problem by itself, and should work now towards establishing a professional class within the ufo field.

(2) Narrow theoretical prejudice in any direction should be avoided by persons working in the ufo field. A good case could be developed for a number of explanations for the ufo problem, but no one explanation has yet been proven in such a way as to move it from the status of theory to the status of objective fact. Theoretical offerings which might at first look seem to be totally absurd could well, upon closer investigation, prove to be quite interesting. UFologists should avoid falling into either unduly accepting or rejecting any theory or claim.

(3) Efforts should continue to be made in the direction of gathering and making available raw ufo data, even where such data tends to repeat itself ad nauseam.

(4) It might help the ufology field if present ufologists were to launch a meaningful effort to capture and retain a substantial youth element for the ufology sphere. If such an effort is launched, experienced ufologists should attempt to provide newcomers with a knowledge of the ufological past in such a manner as to avoid a repeat of the same pitfalls that have appeared in the earlier eras.

(5) UFologists should be on the lookout for, and should resist any inclination on the part of the field to become internalized and out-of-tune with general reality. Public interest in the subject should continue to be sought after in an active way, and segments of the field should work in this direction. It should be kept in mind that the approaches used towards the public and press in the recent past may now be overworked. New approaches should be developed and put into use.

